



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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Date: April 18, 2014

Attachment 1

To: Ronny J. Coleman, Chairman
Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
c/o State Fire Training

From: Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal

Subject/Agenda Action Item: Reaccreditation for Bakersfield College

Recommended Actions:

The accreditation site team recommends that Bakersfield College becomes reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) in the State Fire Training System.

Background Information:

The site team consisted of Corey Rose, STEAC Representative, Heath Cohen, Community College Representative, and Rodney Slaughter as the State Fire Training (SFT) Representative. For several decades Bakersfield College has served the training needs for the fire service agencies in Kern County.

Bakersfield College provides Career Technical and Vocational Education and does not intrude upon or compete with other accredited college programs. The campus has the support of the administration and the local area fire chiefs. The campus offers CFSTES, FSTEP, CICC's along with the core fire science curriculum and classes. Currently the program is expanding with increased interest in a wide range of SFT classes from a growing number of students. Classes are rarely cancelled and fill quickly. The fire academy staff is very familiar with SFT business processes and procedures and they are very mindful of the changes occurring in the system.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The site team met with Tim Capehart, Fire Technology Coordinator, Nan Gomez-Heitzeberg, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Cindy Collier Director of Nursing and EMT Programs. As the Fire Technology Director, Tim Capehart has an extensive history within the California Fire Service and has served in a number of state level positions working with SFT and is also a former STEAC member.

The college administration is very committed to the Fire Academy and Fire Technology programs. At the suggestion of the site team for a succession plan for Tim Capehart's position, the college President, Dr. Sonya Christian approved a half time position to assist the Fire Technology Director the following week.

Notable on the tour of the college facilities and the Olive Drive, Kern County Fire Department's Training facility is the use of SMART classrooms. This technology allows students to participate in classes around the area while on duty and working at their stations. The recorded versions of the class can then be accessed and reviewed by students. The technology also benefits area chiefs. They can broadcast the chief's forum simultaneously and fire department personnel can get the same information at the same time. Bakersfield College is an early adopter of the Target Training Solutions for their Learning Management System.

The team then toured Kern County Fire Department's Training Center. Fire Advisory members including instructors, training chiefs and two of the area Fire Chiefs were on hand to discuss their involvement and support of the Fire Technology Program. Brian Marshall, Kern County Fire Chief and Chief Douglas Greener, Fire Chief Bakersfield Fire Department each discussed their department's commitment and support in terms of providing registered SFT instructors, tools, equipment, and training props.

The site team did not note any deficiencies on the tour of the training center. The program has an adequate amount of tools, equipment, and props to adequately serve the students and the staff. The site team unanimously agreed that Bakersfield College meets all the SFT criteria to become reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP).